

WEST VIRGINIA'S SENATOR
ROBERT C. BYRD HONORED

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, West Virginia's senior Senator, ROBERT C. BYRD, has been named the 1997 Distinguished Legislator of the Year by the University of Michigan.

Senator BYRD is the second legislator to be so honored by the university, which began the program last year through a gift from alumnus Bertram J. Askwith, who established the program to honor contributions by a U.S. Senator or Representative and to provide support—up to \$40,000 in scholarships—for a student from the honoree's home State or district to attend the University of Michigan.

In accepting the honor, Senator BYRD said "I'm deeply appreciative of this honor, particularly because it provides the opportunity for another West Virginian to pursue a formal education."

Senator BYRD has for years been singularly recognized as an advocate for students who are high academic achievers, have great potential, who merit student tuition assistance because of their hard work and commitment while in school, yet often do not have the means of attending college. He has helped thousands of students receive scholarships through the ROBERT C. BYRD Scholars program, funded under the Higher Education Act. These recipients are students who are not just financially needy, but who also have high grade point averages upon graduation from high school. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD has, throughout his Senate tenure, stressed the need to acknowledge students who work hard in school, are talented, and who, based on merit alone, command our help as they seek to pursue a college career.

I commend the University of Michigan for its recognition of Senator ROBERT C. BYRD as the 1997 Distinguished Legislator of the Year.

But more than that, I salute Senator ROBERT C. BYRD for having, himself, shown the remarkable, personal merit to have attracted the attention of the university to his outstanding lifetime achievements, including many years he served as majority and minority leader in the U.S. Senate, a service to his Nation that, I am confident, helped bring about this new honor as the 1997 Distinguished Legislator of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, many times I have risen to commend our beloved senior Senator from West Virginia, for his enormous heart, his unimpeachable integrity, his unique compassion and for his trustworthiness as a leader of this Nation.

Today, I rise to commend Senator BYRD for a lifetime of work dedicated to helping provide a better life and more opportunity for all people. A humble public servant, Senator BYRD strongly believes in what he himself has said is "this miracle of a country, where anything is possible, dreams do come true, even for a poor lad from West Virginia who once gathered scraps to feed the hogs on a rough hillside farm."

A TRIBUTE TO TRUSTEE MAY SHARP ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE LITTLE LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to May Sharp, who is retiring from the Little Lake City School Board after 12 years of distinguished service to the children and community of Sante Fe Springs and Norwalk, CA. On Monday, November 17, 1997, close friends, colleagues, and family members will gather to honor May at a special ceremony at the Clarke Estates in Santa Fe Springs.

As a public servant, May has vigilantly cared for the needs of the children of Little Lake. Her dedication to the education of our children is unparalleled. Elected to the Little Lake City School District Board of Education in November 1985, she has served as its clerk for four terms, vice president for two terms, and president for two terms. Her leadership has gained her the respect and admiration of her colleagues and community members. She has been selected to serve as a representative to the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association for three terms, Whittier Area School Trustees Association, Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, California School Board Association, and the Trustee Review Committee for the Whittier Area Cooperative for Special Education.

May has been active in education since her eldest son, Lea, entered school in 1961, joining the Lakeview PTA. As an active parent and concerned resident, she has held various chairmanships of PTA committees and served as the secretary and vice president of the PTA before being elected president in 1971. She served at Lakeview until her two sons, Lea and Robert, entered Lake Center, where she took an active role in leading that PTA. She was instrumental in the founding of the Little Lake PTA Council. She has served as an officer since its inception and as its president from 1977 to 1979 and 1981 to 1982. Even during her tenure as a member of the school board, May remained committed to the principles of the PTA and committed many hours to volunteering for PTA sponsored activities.

As a member of the Little Lake City School District Board of Education, May has diligently worked to improve the educational opportunities for all students. She has been supportive of student endeavors like the music program and Washington, DC, visit at Lake Center Middle School. She is active not only throughout the school district, but also throughout the city of Santa Fe Springs.

May has served on the city of Santa Fe Springs Beautification Committee for the past 15 years. Also, she has been Mrs. Santa on the Christmas float each year since its inception and active in the leadership of the Santa Fe Springs Women's Club. She is a supporter of the Community Red Cross Holiday Celebrity Chefs, Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce Destiny Scholarship, and the Santa Fe Springs Community Play House.

May's husband, Al Sharp, serves on the Santa Fe Springs City Council. Along with

their two sons, Lea and Robert, daughters-in-law Annie and Lisa, May and Al have two granddaughters, Crystalyn and Candice, who attend school and in the Little Lake City School District.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise today to pay tribute to May Sharp on the occasion of her retirement from the Little Lake City School District Board of Education after 12 years of distinguished service. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting May Sharp for her years of unwavering commitment to our children and her determination to providing the best possible education for our youth.

PEOPLE OF CUBA

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the thousands of Cubans who have no voice, for they have no freedom.

On Wednesday, November 5, 1997, yet another resolution was passed by the U.N. General Assembly, condemning our country's economic sanctions against the megalomaniacal dictator, Fidel Castro. One hundred forty-three other nations, including our good trading partners from Europe, Canada, and Japan voted in support of Castro and against the United States. What those countries fail to realize is that they are working against the freedom loving people of Cuba.

For Americans, Cuba, is in many ways, a family matter for us. Hundreds of thousands of Cuban families have been separated on opposite sides of the Florida Straits for years. Cuban-Americans, refugees really from war, have long dreamed to someday be reunited with family and to see their homeland free once again. Unless strong steps are taken to end the Castro regime, that dream will remain just that—a dream. Standing up to Cuba, standing against Castro and his dictatorship, is the only way to turn those dreams into reality. Using our economic leverage makes it clear to the people of Cuba there is no reconciliation with Fidel Castro, there is no compromise, and it is time to bring the dictatorship to a close. We do this as we did against South Africa with apartheid and as we do today against Iraq.

I am filled today more with sorrow than with anger that our allies, our friends, would support the continuation of oppression and tyranny. However, on this most recent vote, I am gratified that we were joined by two distinguished voices for freedom: Israel and Uzbekistan. These two nations have faced and conquered the obstacles that stand in the way of freedom and realize that freedom, and its bounty, is the fundamental human right.

Castro has had a wall put up around Cuba for almost 40 years. It is our duty, as the pillar of democracy, to tear down those walls and bring freedom to the people yearning for it. I am reminded of Robert Kennedy's words, which are so appropriate now. "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."